

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 983

By Cooper B

A RESOLUTION to request the Administrative Office of the Courts to study the feasibility and implementation of creative sentencing for certain criminal offenses.

WHEREAS, in recent years the continuing escalation of problems, both fiscal and social, within the criminal justice system have propelled numerous judges and governmental jurisdictions to review their sentencing guidelines and to consider alternative methods of punishment and social justice; and

WHEREAS, the cost of incarceration of prisoners and overcrowded prisons in this era of budget deficits and declining revenues has led numerous judges nationwide to impose "creative sentences," primarily to first time, non-violent offenders; and

WHEREAS, "creative sentencing" has been adopted or is now being studied and reviewed by numerous states, including Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, and Utah; and

WHEREAS, it is highly appropriate for this body to request a study to be conducted by the Administrative Office of the Courts which will consider "creative sentencing" and the viability of its implementation in Tennessee's judicial system; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that the Administrative Office of the Courts is hereby requested to study the feasibility and implementation of creative sentencing for criminal offenses, particularly misdemeanor offenses, and to report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly no later than February 1, 2005.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be sent to the Administrative Office of the Courts.*

